

Appln. No. 09/612,869

Attorney Docket No. 10541-2190

II. Remarks

By this paper, Applicants are amending claims 22, 29, and 32; and canceling claims 28 and 35. Therefore, after entering this amendment, claims 14, 16-27, 29-30, 32-34, and 36-43 are pending.

Reconsideration and further examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's allowance of claims 14, 16-21, 36, and 41-43 and the examiner's indication that claims 28 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive thereto, claims 22 and 29 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 28 and 35 respectively. Therefore, claims 22 and 29, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The examiner rejected claims 22-27, 29, 30, 32-34, and 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over *Stein et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,645) in view of GB 1 244 487.

As discussed above, claims 22 and 29 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 28 and 35 respectively. More specifically, claims 22 and 29 have been amended to recite a cover skin disposed over and bonded to *at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad*. As stated by the Examiner in Paragraph 7 of the Office Action, "*Stein does not teach an interior trim component for a motor vehicle wherein the cover skin is bonded to at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad and a portion of the substrate.*" Therefore, claims 22 and 29 are allowable.

Claims 23-27, 37, and 38 depend from claim 22 and claims 30, 32-34, 39, and 40 depend from claim 29. Therefore, claims 22-27, 29, 30, 32-34, and 37-40 are allowable.

Conclusion

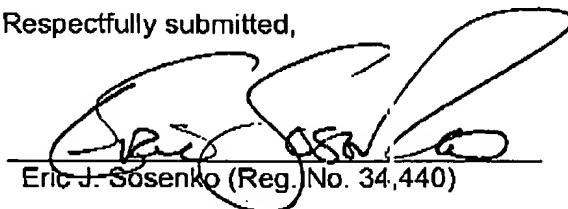


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In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants via telephone number (734) 302-6000, if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: None

BRINKS
HOFER
GILSON
& LIONE

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